

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 were pending in this case. Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled. New Claims 17-19 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 11 have been amended.

Claims 2, and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 2 and 11 have been amended to correct clerical errors. Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled. Regarding the feature in Claims 14 and 15, "means for connecting the nest to the handler," an example of such means is shown in Figure 4 as screws 46. Applicant therefore submits that the claims are in statutory form.

Claims 1-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bumb, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,027). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claims 1 and 6 include the features "a channel through the plate for receiving therethrough an anvil; and an anvil detachably engaged through the channel." Bumb does not teach or suggest such a feature. In contrast, Bumb teaches a compliant member 28 retained or affixed in a recess or channel 73 with an adhesive 74 provided therebetween (see col. 7, lines 57-67). Thus, Applicant's claimed arrangement is distinct from Bumb's and possesses the advantage over Bumb of easy and quick anvil replacement. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 6, and Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 14-16 depending therefrom, are patentable over Bumb. Similarly, new Claim 17 includes the features "a channel through said plate adjacent said cavity in a location adjacent said test head contact point when said test head and said nest are juxtaposed; and an anvil releasably disposed in said channel to provide force sufficient to press said lead on said integrated circuit

against said test head contact point during juxtaposition of said test head and said nest", which serves to distinguish Claim 17 and Claim 18 and 19 depending therefrom, from Bumb.

Claims 1-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eberlein, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,962,356). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claims 1 and 6 include the features "a channel through the plate for receiving therethrough an anvil; and an anvil detachably engaged through the channel." Eberlein does not teach or suggest such a feature, nor does Eberlein even disclose an anvil or a channel in a plate through which an anvil can be disposed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 6, and Claims 2-5, 7-11, and 14-16 depending therefrom, are patentable over Eberlein. Similarly, new Claim 17 includes the features "a channel through said plate adjacent said cavity in a location adjacent said test head contact point when said test head and said nest are juxtaposed; and an anvil releasably disposed in said channel to provide force sufficient to press said lead on said integrated circuit against said test head contact point during juxtaposition of said test head and said nest", which serves to distinguish Claim 17 and Claim 18 and 19 depending therefrom, from Eberlein.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-11 and 14-19. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

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Respectfully submitted,



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In the Claims:

1. (amended) A nest for holding an integrated circuit during testing, comprising:
 - a plate having a front side and a back side;
 - a cavity in the plate for receiving an integrated circuit having a plurality of pins;
 - a channel through [within] the plate for receiving therethrough [therein] an anvil; and
 - an anvil detachably engaged through [within] the channel, positioned to engage the pins of the integrated circuit and to maintain the pins in alignment.
2. (amended) The nest of Claim 1 wherein the plate [nest] comprises a material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, steel, or Torlon®.
6. (amended) A system for testing an integrated circuit comprising:
 - a test head having at least one contact point;
 - a handler for placing the integrated circuit in a position for testing;
 - and
 - a nest connected to the handler for holding an integrated circuit during testing, comprising:
 - a plate having a front side and a back side,
 - a cavity in the plate for receiving an integrated circuit having a plurality of pins;
 - a channel through the plate for receiving therethrough [therein] an anvil; and
 - an anvil detachably engaged through [within] the channel, positioned to engage the pins of the integrated circuit and to maintain the pins in alignment.
11. (amended) The system of Claim 6 wherein the plate [nest] comprises a material selected from the group consisting of aluminum, steel, or Torlon®.
12. (cancelled).
13. (cancelled) .